

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 12216 271059Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SSO-00 /012 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7472

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, NI, OEXC (FESTAC)

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH FESTAC PRESIDENT AND NAZ COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REF: (A) LAGOS 12077, (B) STATE 259443, (C) STATE 257185, (D) STATE
248228 (E) STATE 263710 (F) LAGOS 12202

1. ON AFTERNOON OCT 22, FESTAC PRESIDENT FINGESI REQUESTED
AMBASSADOR TO MEET WITH HIM OCTOBER 23. DURING MEETING, WHICH
ATTENDED BY ALL MAJOR IFC EXECUTIVES AND PAO/CAO, FINGESI SAID HE

WISHED EXCHANGE VIEWS ON AMERICAN PARTICIPATION. HE SAID HE WAS
DISTURBED BY DONALDSON'S INABILITY TO REDUCE SIZE OF NAZ GROUP (IN
VIEW APPARENT INABILITY TO RAISE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO TRANSPORT THE
DESIGNATED 1200-PERSON REPRESENTATION) AU WELL AS DONALDSON'S
"IMPLIED THREAT" THAT THE NAZ COMMITTEE WOULD RESIGN IF TRANSPORTA-
TION FUNDING FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP COULD NOT BE FOUND. HE ASKED THE
AMBASSADOR IF THE USG COULD HELP SOLVE THE DILEMMA. THE AMBASSADOR
SAID HE COULD OFFER NO HOPE AT THIS LATE DATE THAT THE USG
COULD PROVIDE MORE THAN THE \$150,000 ALREADY SUPPLIED TO NZ DUE TO
LENGTHY USG LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO
OBTAIN FUNDS. HE SAID THAT USG SHARED IFC CONCERN THAT NAZ NOT
PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR SIZE OF GROUP AND THAL IT WOULD
BE USEFUL TO HAVE VIEWS OF FINGESI ON MINIMAL
PARTICIPATION IFC WOULD CONSIDER AS SATISFACTORY. HE NOTED THAT
DONALDSON WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
RICHARDSON ON OCTOBER 27 AND SUCH VIEWS WOULD BE USEFUL FOR
THAT MEETING.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 12216 271059Z

2. FINGESI, CHARACTERIZING DONALDSON'S POSITION AS "RIDICULOUS," SAID THAT AT THIS STAGE WHAT IS NECESSARY IS TO ASSURE A "GOOD AMERICAN REPRESENTATION" AT FESTAC AND THAT LESS THAN 500 "EVEN 200 OR 300" -- COULD BE ADEQUATE. " WHAT MATTERS MOST IS QUALITY OF THE GROUP." HE SAID THAT TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE THE ISSUE SINCE THE FMG GUARANTEED HOUSING AT FESTIVAL VILLAGE, SUSTENANCE, INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION, MEDICAL CARE AND INSURANCE IN-COUNTRY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS AND ART WORKS. LHE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT THE IFC POLICY WOULD BE ON HOUSING FOR DISTINGUISHED GUEST ACCOMPANYING THE PARTICIPANTS; FINGESI REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE VIP HOTEL HOUSING AND SIMILAR TREATMENT TO MEMBERS OF OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

3. RESPONDING TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUERIES ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOURISTS ATTENDING FESTAC, FINGESI SAID: A) REGARDING VISAS, THERE IS A FESTAC LIAISON OFFICER IN THE NIGERIAN WASHINGTON EMBASSY AND IN OTHER NIGERIAN EMBASSIES TO HELP EXPEDITE VISAS AND CONFIRM THAT TOURISTS ARE ASSURED OF HOUSING (COMMENT: FINGESI WAS VAGUE ABOUT THE MECHANISM FOR ACHIEVING THAT RESULT.); (B) ON HOUSING, THERE WILL BE 18,000 UNITS AT FESTIVAL VILLAGE OF WHICH SOME 5,000 WILL BE FOR TOURISTS WHO WILL BE CHARGED 20/15 NAIRA FOR A DOUBLE/SINGLE IN CLASS A ACCOMMODATIONS, 15/10 IN CLASS B AND 10/7 IN CLASS C, ADDITIONAL HOUSING IS BEING SOLICITED FROM LOCAL HOTELS, MOTELS AND PRIVATE HOMES; C) ON FOOD, MEALS WILL BE SUPPLIED FOR TOURISTS AT THE FESTIVAL VILLAGE AT 1 NAIRA FOR BREAKFAST AND 3 NAIRA EACH FOR LUNCH AND DINNER: CUISINE WILL BE AFRICAN-STYLE WITH SOME "INTERNATIONAL" DISHES; D) ON MEDICAL FACILITIES, CLINICS WILL OPERATE AROUND-THE -CLOCK AT BOTH THE VILLAGE AND THE NATIONAL STADIUM FOR BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND TOURISTS.

4. KINGESI CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STATING THE IFC'S URGENT NEED FOR EXACT INFORMATION ON THE SIZE OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO PLAN THE SCHEDULES OF EVENTS AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR HOUSING AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

5. AMBASSADOR HOSTED SUBSEQUENT WORKING LUNCH ATTENDED BY DONALDSON, 5 NAZ COLLEAGUES, DCM, PAO, CAO AND CONSUL. DISCUSSIONS PROVIDED LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 12216 271059Z

GENERATED BY PRIOR MEETING REPORTED REFTEL A BUT CONFIRMED POST IMPRESSION THAT DONALDSON'S ALL-OR-NOTHING POSITION HAS STRONG SUPPORT OF NAZ COMMITTEE MEMBERS. MEETING CLARIFIED THAT COUNT OF 967 PARTICIPANTS (REFTEL A, PARA 2) WAS INCOMPLETE; WITH SUPERNUMERARIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS, PROPOSED AMERICAN PARTICIPATION TOTALS ABOUT 1200. DR. FLETCHER ROBINSON, HEAD OF NAZ MEDICAL TEAM WHO HAD CONSULTED FMG AND FESTAC MEDICAL PLANNERS, SAID THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

SHOULD PROVE ADEQUATE, HE WAS SATISFIED WITH ASSURANCES GIVEN FOR OPERATION OF NAZ MEDICAL TEAM. DR. EDITH WILSON IS COMPILING INFORMATION PAMPHLET ON CONDITIONS IN LAGOS FOR PARTICIPANTS. (COMMENT: THE DCM SUBSEQUENTLY SUPPLIED HER WITH SUGGESTED MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN PAMPHLET.) DONALDSON REPORTED THAT IFC HAD CONFIRMED THAT 4 PAVISIONS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT NATIONAL STADIUM TO ASSURE FACILITIES FOR EXTRA NON-SCHEDULED PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITS BY PARTICIPANTS. DONALDSON STATED HE PLANNED TO CONTACT GULF NIGERIA FOR A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION BEFORE DEPARTING LAGOS OCT 24. (SEE REFTEL D, PARA 9.) NAZ COMMITTEE MEMBERS DO NOT PLAN RETURN TO LAGOS UNTIL EARLY JANUARY, ALTHOUGH JOAN SANDLER, IN EHARGE OF THEATRICAL PRESENTATIONS, MAY MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP IN DECEMBER TO FINALIZE TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS. THEY EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT FESTAC WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND THT COMMON COMMUNITY HOUSING OF PARTICIPANTS IN FESTIVAL VILLAGE PROMISES OT GENERATE EXCITING AND USEFUL CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF CULTURAL MODES AND IDEAS.

6. EMBASSY'S VIES ON AMERICAN PARTICIPATION ARE GIVEN IN REFTEL F.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS12216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760400-1138
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761014/aaaaaltz.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LAGOS 12077, 76 STATE 259443, 76 STATE 257185, 76 STATE 1976
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETINGS WITH FESTAC PRESIDENT AND NAZ COMMITTEE MEMBERS
TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, NI, FESTAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006